Simplification of tax system

2679. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to simplify tax system, if so, the details of the simplification prcedure as reported in the Times of India of 18th December, 2002;

(b) whether the purpose is to bring in uniform rates and to eliminate interface between tax-payers and authorities; and

(c) the benefits that would accrue to the common man as a result?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Simplification and rationalisation of the tax system is a continuous process. The Government has taken a number of steps to simplify procedures, which, *inter alia,* include the abolition of tax clearance certificates, amendment of the Income Tax Act to enable electronic filing of returns, introduction of a one-page return form for certain categories of taxpayers, overall reduction in the number of forms, procedure for selection of cases for scrutiny to be computerized, simplification of procedure relating to search and seizures/surveys, gradual structural reforms in duty rates in customs and central excise, reduction in dispersal of rates, liberalization of the CENVAT Scheme, introduction of monthly payment scheme, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The simplification and rationalization of tax procedures will, *inter alia,* reduce the compliance cost of the taxpayers, make the relevant Acts user-friendly, reduce cost of production, improve the competitiveness of the user industries, etc.

Schemes for weaker section by United India Insurance

2680. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United India Insurance Company has launched new

schemes for weaker sections of society, as reported in the Financial Express of 5th December, 2002, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what additional benefits would accrue in the schemes over the ones offered by other companies; and

(c) whether any awareness launched by the company to harness business under the above schemes?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The United India Insurance Company Ltd. has launched two policies viz. (i) Uni-Micro Health Scheme for Self-help Groups and (ii) Mother Teresa Women and Child Policy in December, 2002. Uni-Micro Health Scheme provides medical benefits and personal accident cover whereas Mother Teresa Women and Child Policy provides personal accident cover to the rural and self-employed women from the poorer sections of the society. The policy also provides for creation of a corpus in a Nationalised Bank for a sum of Rs. 25,000/- each favouring one male child and one female child in the event of accidental death of either parent.

(c) The 'United India' has launched publicity campaign to popularise these products.

Revision of reduction on import duty on coke

2681. DR. A.K. PATEL:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from Government of Gujarat for revising the reduction made in the import duty of Coke; and

(b) if so, what is the Central Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prior to 1st March, 2003, metcoke attracted customs duty